

K R A S K I N, L E S S E & C O S S O N, L L P
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September 6, 2002

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SEP - 6 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45
Section 254(e) Self-Certification of
Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Attached hereto is a sworn affidavit of J.R. Troop, Treasurer of Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the "Cooperative"), certifying that the Cooperative is in compliance with the requirements of Section 254(e) and the requirements established by the Commission in *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45 and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256 (FCC 01-157) (released May 23, 2001) ("Order") and codified at 47 C.F.R. §54.314. Because the Cooperative is not subject to the jurisdiction of a State, the Cooperative makes this certification directly to the FCC as provided for in paragraph 189 of the Order and 47 C.F.R. §54.314(b).

A copy of this Certification is also being filed this day with the Universal Service Administrative Cooperative at its Washington, D.C., offices.

Please acknowledge receipt on the duplicate "stamp and return" document attached for this purpose. All correspondence and inquiries concerning this filing should be addressed to the undersigned.

Sincerely



Clifford C. Rohde
Counsel to Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Encl.

cc: Ms. Irene Flannery, Universal Service Administrative Company

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List ABCDE

FCC CC Docket No. 96-45
Section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended
47 C.F.R. § 54.314

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CERTIFICATION of
Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
311 N. Chancery St.
P.O. Box 670
McMinnville, TN 37111

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

AFFIDAVIT

I, J.R. Troop, Jr., Treasurer of Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the "Cooperative") do hereby certify under penalties of perjury, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, that the following is true and correct:

1. I am the Treasurer of the Cooperative;
2. The Cooperative is not subject to the jurisdiction of a state;
3. The Cooperative is a "rural telephone company" as defined in 47 U.S.C. §153(37);
4. The Cooperative is eligible for disbursements from the federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"); and
5. The Cooperative will use all federal high-cost support provided to it only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Signature:

J.R. Troop, Jr.

Date:

8/28/02

State of Tennessee, County of Warren

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary in and for the State of Tennessee, on this
day personally appeared J. R. Troop, Jr., known to me to be the
Declarant, who, being duly sworn, executed the foregoing instrument.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of August, 2002.

My Commission expires April 29, 2003.

Gara P. Byars
Notary Public

(seal)